AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 28 briding to p. 2, line2, with the following paragraph:

Meanwhile, selection of optimal <u>oligonuleotideoligonucleotide</u> probe set is an important process in microarray experiments. Generally, desired probes are selected by predicting the binding affinity between a sample gene and candidate probes expected to bind with the sample gene. Since exact prediction enables to the construction of a high performance microarray with small efforts, there have been done many studies on developing more exact prediction systems for the binding affinity between a sample gene and probes, and optimal probe selection methods based on such prediction systems.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 22-27 with the following replacement paragraph:

In summary, probe design-related prior arts are <u>interest-interested</u> in accurate prediction of probe characteristics and selection of good probes based on the accurate prediction. However, under such circumstances that relational information continues to be edited and new information continues to be disclosed, it is important to efficiently manage designed probe information for easy search of relational information, as well as to accurately design probes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 as follows: